

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
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DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/FSE:MVCREEKMORE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
INFO USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: PROCEDURAL SUGGESTIONS FOR CIEC ENERGY COMMISSION

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE SOONEST TO PETROMIN
GOVERNOR ABDUL HADI TAHER (CIEC ENERGY COMMISSION
CO-CHAIRMAN) FROM DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEPHEN W.
BOSWORTH.

2. QUOTE: DEAR ABDUL HADI: PRIOR TO OUR RETURN TO
PARIS, I WANTED TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH YOU INFORMALLY ON
HOW WE COULD BEST PROCEED WITH OUR WORK IN THE ENERGY
COMMISSION. I THINK IT WILL BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
DURING THE FINAL PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AS WE SEEK TO REACH CONCLUSIONS
SATISFACTORY TO ALL PARTICIPANTS, THAT YOU AND I
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CONTINUE AND EVEN INTENSIFY THE CLOSE, CANDID, AND
MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED
OUR PAST ENDEAVORS IN CIEC. IN THIS CONTEXT, I WANTED
TO SHARE THE FOLLOWING IDEAS WITH YOU.

3. I HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO THE
MOST EFFICIENT MEANS FOR ADVANCING OUR WORK IN THE

ENERGY COMMISSION. I WONDER WHETHER CONTINUING THE

THE PROCESS BEGUN IN NOVEMBER OF USING THREE SEPARATE DRAFTING GROUPS TO WORK ON THE ISSUES OF SUPPLY, PRICE, AND COOPERATION IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO COMPLETE OUR WORK. AS OUR WORK IN THE COMMISSION OVER THE PAST YEAR HAS SHOWN, THESE MAJOR ISSUES CANNOT EASILY BE ISOLATED FROM EACH OTHER. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS A NORMAL TENDENCY IN DRAFTING GROUPS TO SPEND TOO MUCH TIME DEBATING FINE POINTS OF LANGUAGE RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUES AND THE AREAS OF CONVERGENCE AND DIVERGENCE.

4. I SUGGEST FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION THAT WE COMMENCE OUR RESUMED WORK WITH A SINGLE, ENLARGED CONTACT GROUP UNDER OUR PERSONAL DIRECTION. WHILE THIS GROUP COULD INCLUDE ALL MEMBERS OF THE ENERGY COMMISSION, EACH SIDE COULD HAVE A FEW DESIGNATED SPEAKERS. I WOULD RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROCEDURES SHOULD BE VERY INFORMAL.

5. I SUGGEST THAT THIS ENLARGED GROUP DISCUSS CONSECUTIVELY THE KEY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED IN THE COMMISSION. YOU AND I COULD AGREE ON THE LIST OF ISSUES DURING THE COURSE OF THE APRIL 26-28 CO-CHAIRMEN MEETING. AFTER THE GROUP HAD COMPLETED ONE ISSUE AND GONE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON IT, WE COULD SEND TWO OR THREE PERSONS OFF TO DRAFT LANGUAGE THAT EMBRACED THE GROUP'S DECISIONS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(YOU AND I SHOULD, I THINK, SUMMARIZE THE DISCUSSION OF EACH ISSUE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE EXPLICIT GUIDANCE TO THE DRAFTERS OF WHAT WE EXPECT TO BE IN THEIR PAPER.) AFTER THE GROUP HAS COVERED ALL THE ISSUES, WE COULD CONSIDER THE PREPARED DRAFTS AND MAKE MODIFICATIONS AS REQUIRED. OUR OBJECTIVE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE TO PRODUCE TEXTS AS FREE OF BRACKETS AS POSSIBLE, TO BE FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION AND SUBMITTED TO THE SENIOR OFFICIALS AND THEN TO MINISTERS.

6. IF YOU CONCUR WITH THESE PROCEDURAL SUGGESTIONS, I WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT WE MIGHT NOT WANT TO USE THE INFORMAL PAPERS PRODUCED BY THE THREE CONTACT GROUPS IN NOVEMBER AS A PRIMARY BASIS FOR OUR DISCUSSIONS. THEY WOULD NOT BE EXACTLY RELEVANT IF OUR DISCUSSION IN THE CONTACT GROUP FOLLOWS AN ISSUE-BY-ISSUE APPROACH. NEVERTHELESS, THE TEXTS PRODUCED BY THE CONTACT GROUPS IN NOVEMBER TOGETHER WITH THE VARIOUS PAPERS SUBMITTED BY THE TWO GROUPS WILL STILL BE USEFUL AND IMPORTANT

FOR OUR DISCUSSION, AND WE MIGHT WANT TO USE SOME OF THEIR LANGUAGE IN THE NEW DRAFTS WE WOULD PREPARE.

7. FINALLY, I BELIEVE WE CAN COMPLETE OUR WORK SOMEWHAT MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY THAN CALLED FOR IN THE APRIL 29-MAY 14 SCHEDULE FOR THE CONTACT GROUPS. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE AGREE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS FOR THE WORK OF THE ENERGY COMMISSION FROM 14 TO 9 OR 10. THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES OF HOW THIS COULD BE DONE. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO START THE WORK OF THE ENERGY COMMISSION ON OR ABOUT MAY 4 AND CONCLUDE IT AS SCHEDULED ON MAY 14.

8. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR REACTION TO MY SUGGESTIONS AND ANY THOUGHTS YOU HAVE ON OTHER PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS AFFECTING OUR FUTURE WORK. IT WOULD FACILITATE MY PLANNING IF I COULD RECEIVE YOUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPLY BEFORE I DEPART FOR PARIS ON APRIL 23.

9. IN CONCLUSION, I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR CLOSE AND PRODUCTIVE COOPERATION IN PARIS. AS WE MOVE INTO THE FINAL PHASE OF CIEC, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN WORKING TO BRING ABOUT A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO CIEC.

10. WITH WARMEST REGARDS, STEVE. END QUOTES.
VANCE

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